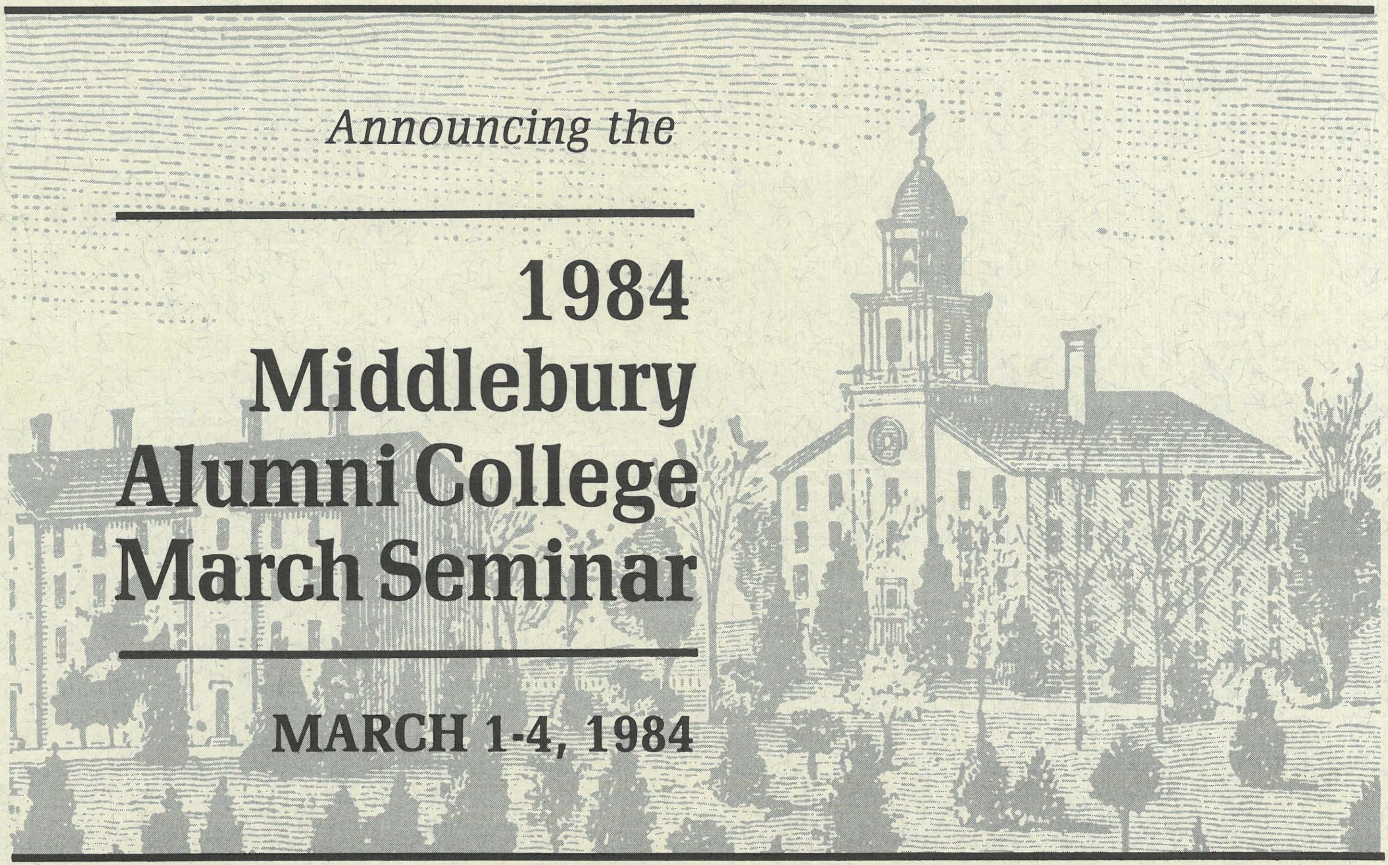
Announcing the

1984 Middlebury Alumni College March Seminar

MARCH 1-4, 1984



THE NEW AGE OF POLITICAL REFORM

Eric L. Davis

Many aspects of the American political system have undergone substantial transformations since the late 1960's. These "reforms" have not always had the consequences intended by their proponents. In this course, we will examine some of these transformations, such as changes in the selection of presidential candidates, changes in the financing of elections, and changes in the processes and content of the federal budget. We will attempt to determine what effects these transformations and their consequences, both intended and unintended, will have on the public agenda with which the president elected in 1984 will have to cope.

VISIONS OF THE FOREIGN

Edward C. Knox — John D. Berninghausen

From the earliest period of European exploration and settlement in this "new world" right up to the current complexities of international involvement and the politics of ethnicity here at home, we Americans have at times been fascinated by the "foreign," at times fearful of it. As has been the case with many other peoples, past and present, we are frequently forced to ask ourselves what we mean when we speak of "foreignness," how we are perceived by others when we are the "foreigner," and how people from differing backgrounds think about and interact with the "foreign." Sources include a few key short stories by Joseph Conrad, Somerset Maugham and other writers, Graham Greene's highly prophetic 1955 novel about U.S. involvement in Vietnam, *The Quiet American,* two remarkable French films about distinctive "visions of the foreign" during World War I in Europe *(Grand Illusion)* and in colonial Africa *(Black and White in Color)* and several stimulating essays by immigrants, anthropologists, sojourners, etc. This course will employ a discussion-based format to probe into topics such as "culture shock," "being foreign in America," "cultural assimilation vs. cultural diversity," "Americans as foreigners," "cultural vs. class divergences," "cross-cultural experiences" and "Vietnam as the 'foreign.' " Professors Knox and Berninghausen will attempt to focus a certain amount of attention during discussion on various artistic and narrative techniques by which each essay, film or work of fiction has succeeded in probing into the realm of the "foreign." In some cases discussions may lead us to consider the power of certain narratives to establish or reinforce or even undermine characteristic attitudes towards peoples and things "alien" to oneself.

EDWARD C. KNOX, Vice President for Foreign Languages, A.B., Wesleyan, Ph.D., Yale. Since joining the Middlebury faculty in 1969, Mr. Knox has served as Dean of the French School and was named the Jean Thompson Fulton Professor of Modern Languages and Literature in 1981. As vice president, he has the responsibility for the College's five schools abroad in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Russia as well as the eight summer language programs. Dr. Knox has held Woodrow Wilson and Fulbright Fellowships and received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for Independent Study in Paris during the 1978-79 academic year. He is the author of several scholarly works and text books, as well as other articles and papers.

JOHN D. BERNINGHAUSEN, Associate Professor of Chinese and current chairman of the Foreign Languages Division, A.B., University of Minnesota, M.A., Ph.D., Stanford. Having taught at the University of Vermont prior to joining Middlebury's faculty in 1976, Dr. Berninghausen established the Chinese language program in the regular year curriculum at that time. The author of several publications on modern Chinese literature, he has also lived and studied in Taiwan four times during the past two decades. Three short stories from Shanghai's "dissent literature" written in 1979 are soon to appear in translations done by him. Last April he was one of about 50 participants selected to take part in a national conference on better integrating Asian Studies within the undergraduate curriculum.

ERIC L. DAVIS, Assistant Professor of Political Science, A.B., Brown, Ph.D., Stanford. Professor Davis joined the Middlebury faculty in 1980. Prior to that, he was a research Fellow at the Brookings Institution and taught at the University of California, Berkeley. His publications include "Legislative Liaison in the Carter Administration" and "Legislative Reform and the Decline of Presidential Influence on Capitol Hill." A forthcoming study is entitled "Congressional Liaison: The People and the Institutions."

ALUMNI COLLEGE AT MIDDLEBURY

March Seminar **March 1-4, 1984**

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All rooms have private baths.

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The fee, covering nine meals, three nights of lodging, class instruction and books is $200.00 (double occupancy) or $250.00 (single occupancy) per person, payable upon registration.

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I ( ), We ( ) am/are interested in the following course:

___ **The New Age of Political Reform**

___ **Visions of the Foreign**

If my choice is unavailable, I would be interested in the other course.____

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